THE FIRST SETTLER IN HILLSBORO

A Bicgraphy of John McNeel
By Eliz: bath C. Sheet

John McNeel was born in Frederick county, Virginia, in 1745, and passed much of his early life in Cumberland, Maryland.

Mr. McNeel seemed to be fond of athletics and in a contest his antagonist was badly injured. To avoid arrest and trial for murder he fled and followed the trend of the Alleghenies. A long while was spent in the wilderness without much food, causing suffering of the mind and the shape his body was in cannot be imagined by any of us. Finally going deeper and deeper into the Wilderness, he came at last in view of the Levels in 1765.

The place was covered mostly with trees surrounded by large mountains. This seemed like home to Mr. Mc-Neel and he decided to settle here. He chose a place to build his cavin near the present home owned by Hon. M. J. McNeel. Traces of lis

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This seemed like home to Mr. Mc-FIF WE ers Neel and he decided to settle here. wb He chose a place to build his cabin pe iE near the present home owned by Hon. M. J. McNeel. Traces of lis th cabin have been seen by many people fre yet living, between the gate and the th public road and his residence. If 118 this spot could be traced, it would re be well to mark it with a piece of fo marble gotten close by to show that to he was the first settler in Little in Levels District. d by ar Here Mr. McNeel prayed over his Vest ri guilt and prayed with a broken heart, ton, ge and hunted for food, subsisting most on W ly on venison and trout. aid One day while hunting he met ead gi Charles and Edward Kennison from Kapr his old home, who had come here ar. pi prospecting for a situation. From ion b these men he learned that the man ad st he had been boxing with was not aty Sy killed and not even seriously hurt. rotł. This was indeed good news to him, or en because he felt free from all bloody ldne stains. ck Mr. McNeel shared his cabin with

his old home, who had come here Charprospecting for a situation. From etion these men he learned that the man Road he had been boxing with was not inty killed and not even seriously hurt. Pro-This was indeed good news to him, or because he felt free from all bloody adstains. eck Mr. McNeel shared his cabin with his friends and helped them clear a ptract of land adjoining his tract. rd-The three then set out for the lower nd valley of Virginia. re. While visiting home John McNeel fimarried Martha Davis who was born es in Wales in 1740. Shortly after of their marriage they came out to r-Levels, A few acres was soon clear e ed off, and plenty to subsist upon n was raised. Mr. McNeel was deeply impressed y with a sense of gratitude to God for his care, and after all to fall into such a wealthy place that he built a place for worship, the White Pole

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SIWSYS s. pan burg and joined the expedition at ments gallon, Point Pleasant, October 10. 1774. Ask your They went across the Eastern mounliams tain and enlisted in same company assist EE. that went from Frederick county. burg V. Va served through the Revolution and state then took up the peaceful trend of Miss their lives where they had left off. the While Mr. McNeel was at Point tered Both Pleasant a child was born and died rgin lesto before his return. The mother with blic. her own hands prepared the cottin This and grave and buried it. milk To They reared five children, two er of sons and these caughters Each, of, w in also these children were married and rsey tax reared large families. are gh Mr. McNeel was the first man to mo settle in Little Levels when only we al twenty years of age. Mr. McNeel cie aiso laid the foundation of the Methes of odist church and first established tal ned. Methodism in Pocahontas county. loc avis Mrs. John McNeel laid the first th a. body to rest in the McNeel graveyard br Mr. McNeel lived to be eighty years ta of age and died in 1825. m 10th of KNAPPS CREEK ta ite. Characher C. L. L.